

BOBBY L. RUSH
1ST DISTRICT, ILLINOIS



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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
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October 6, 2022

Debra Shore
Regional Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Regional Administrator Shore:

I wrote to you last year about the ongoing clean water issues plaguing the suburban villages and towns south of Chicago within my Congressional district. For far too long, these communities have struggled to secure affordable and dependable supplies of clean water for their residents.

Unfortunately, the situation has worsened since then. Last month, five water mains in the Village of Dixmoor broke, leaving more than 1,000 families without water. Two public schools closed for days as a result of the brakes, sending eager students home just at the very beginning of a new school year. This was not the only time this summer that Dixmoor faced water issues: water mains in the village broke multiple times over the course of July and August. In addition to Dixmoor, the citizens of the Village of Robbins experienced a severe water main break that left the entire community without water for hours.

The water situations facing Dixmoor, Robbins, and countless other neighboring communities are dire. While the tens of billions in funding and support provided by last year's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. 117-58) will help these suburbs start to rebuild their water systems, the issues plaguing the south suburban water infrastructure are vast and structural. More than just dollars, they need Federal and State leadership to help steer them through this crisis.

To that end, I would like to invite you, Administrator Regan, the Director of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, and the mayors of Robbins, Dixmoor, Posen, Midlothian, and other Southland municipalities to meet in my district to discuss the best path forward to ensure that my constituents have access to safe and clean drinking water. I am happy to schedule this whenever might be best to accommodate your schedule.

I look forward to welcoming you to Illinois and discussing this vital issue that impacts thousands of Illinoisans. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress